

The Minnesota National Guard thrives on community relations, and Major General Eugene Andreotti, the Adjutant General, considers a primary mission for the Guard is to “Add value to the community.” In the spirit of this mission, Camp Ripley has adopted a noise management program that is considerate of its neighbors.

Understanding the community sound barrier

A Success Story at Camp Ripley

Colonel Terry Dorenbush, Camp Ripley Post Commander, believes that the foundation of a successful noise management program is community awareness and a respectful relationship with the individuals that are impacted by the noise that Camp Ripley generates. For some installations this is a daunting task, but for Camp Ripley it is a way of life.

The Camp’s noise management program has been developed with the assistance of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM). Dorenbush credits the outstanding support and technical guidance provided by USACHPPM staff for Camp Ripley’s success in its noise management program. “The support that we have received from CHPPM over the last 15 years has provided Camp Ripley with a very accurate and defensible noise management program. For without their expertise, we would be lost when it comes to dealing with noise issues,” said Dorenbush.

While Camp Ripley is not overwhelmed with noise complaints, each complaint is treated with the utmost attention. In addition to responding immediately to noise complaints, the Camp Ripley Commander promotes community awareness. The awareness program includes interviews on the local radio stations to explain upcoming military activities for the busiest training season (May

through August). Periodic news releases in area newspapers have been very effective both in terms of informing the public about future events and as a means of sharing accomplishments at Camp Ripley. In fact, just last year, Colonel Dorenbush initiated a routine newspaper column entitled the “Camp Ripley Corner,” which has been well received by the community.

The Camp Ripley Citizens Advisory Committee is also a very effective forum through which the community is kept informed about Camp Ripley activities, including noise issues. The Citizens Advisory Committee meets on a quarterly basis and is composed of local officials, business people, and the public at large. The diverse representation on this committee ensures an excellent sounding board on community issues.

Ensuring that the communities are provided the most current and accurate information requires a comprehensive database. Consequently, Camp Ripley personnel have been compiling noise-related data since 1985, starting with a noise assessment through the US Army Environmental Hygiene Agency (now USACHPPM). The routine data that are compiled pertain to weapons fired, weather, and noise complaints. An analysis of these data enables Camp Ripley personnel to better understand its noise environment. For example, as shown in the following map, noise complaints are tracked according to the ZIP code of the resident that filed the complaint.

Tracking noise complaints

This geographic information is valuable in terms of developing land use agreements that have been initiated with officials from three surrounding counties.

The nature of Camp Ripley's business—to train soldiers—necessitates noise-generating activities. However, Camp Ripley's commitment to serve as a responsible neighbor will ensure that the mission of Camp Ripley can be accomplished. This commitment is realized through the unconditional support of all Camp Ripley employees and its customers.

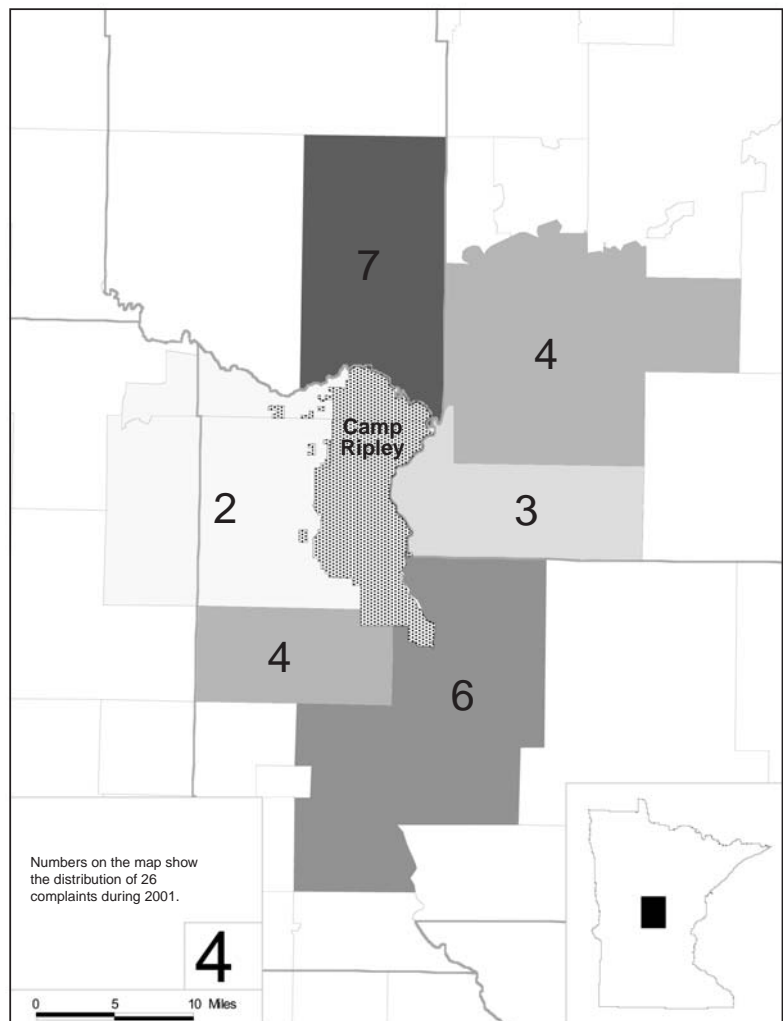
For more information about Camp Ripley's noise management efforts, contact Marty Skoglund at 320 632-7201.

For more information about the Army's Noise Program, contact:

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For more information on the Navy's noise management program, contact:

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For more information on the Air Force's noise management program, contact:

AICUZ/Noise Program Manager
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For more information on the Marine Corp's noise management program, contact:

Community and Land Use Planner
Headquarter Marine Corps
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